COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

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COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS is intended to provide quick updates on issues of interest to members and affiliates of the Council of Ontario Universities (COU). It is produced regularly throughout the academic year. This issue covers the months of July, August, September and October 2005.

Record-breaking attendance at 2005 Ontario Universities' Fair

A record-breaking 83,500 people attended the ninth annual Ontario Universities' Fair, held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre from September 30 to October 2, 2005 – up by over 8,000 from last year's fair. All of Ontario's universities as well as the Ontario College of Art & Design and the Royal Military College of Canada were represented at the free-admission event.

Each university greeted visitors with a sophisticated exhibition booth staffed by professors, students, and admissions and student services representatives, who were on hand to answer questions about admissions policies, academic programs and campus life. Each university also held information sessions in nearby presentation rooms and handed out volumes of take-away materials.

The fair is the Toronto leg of the province-wide University Information Program organized by the Standing Committee on Secondary School Liaison. A group of volunteers from the liaison community, chaired by Liam Mitchell of the University of Toronto, co-ordinated the event.

New Training, Colleges and Universities Minister attends Executive Heads' meeting

On September 16, 2005, Executive Heads of Ontario universities welcomed the opportunity to meet with Chris Bentley, the new Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, at their first meeting of the academic year. Discussions centred on Ontario's postsecondary landscape and ways that government and universities can work together to address current challenges.

Minister Bentley had previously served as the Minister of Labour. He is a lawyer who has practised criminal and labour law and, since 1992, has taught part-time at the University of Western Ontario Law School. He helped to establish the Law School Careers Office; has lectured at various continuing education courses for judges, crown attorneys, the police and defence counsel; and authored a book on criminal law. He attended the University of Western Ontario; received his law degree from the University of Toronto Law School in 1979; was called to the Ontario bar in 1981; and later earned his master's degree from Cambridge University in England.

Ross Paul assumes role as Chair of Council

Ross Paul, a member of COU since 1991 and former Vice-Chair of Council, assumed the role of Chair on July 1, 2005.

Dr. Paul was appointed President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Windsor in 1998 and reappointed in 2004. Prior to his Windsor appointment, he served as President of Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario, for almost seven years. A bilingual native of Montreal, Dr. Paul has teaching and senior administrative experience at all levels of education.

He represents Canada's universities on the Canadian Automotive Partnership Council and is a member of the board of AUTO21, the Network of Centres of Excellence for advanced automotive research. Dr. Paul also serves on the Minister's Advisory Council for Arts and Culture in Ontario. He is past Chair of the boards of World University Service of Canada and the Optical Research Advanced Network of Ontario. He was the founding President of CREAD (Center for Research, Evaluation, Assessment, and Dissemination) and served as Vice-President (North America) for the International Council for Distance Education.

Dr. Paul has travelled and consulted on management and distance education issues, and has authored numerous books and articles on the management of technology and higher learning. A graduate of Bishop's, McGill and London universities, he was awarded the Governor General's Medal for the 125th Anniversary of Confederation in 1992 and the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002.

He succeeds Dr. Richard Van Loon, who completed his term as Chair of Council on June 30, 2005, and retired as President of Carleton University on July 31, 2005.

Steering Committee will oversee participation of Ontario universities in NSSE

In 2000, Indiana University's Center for Survey Research, under the sponsorship of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Pew Forum on Undergraduate Learning, launched the inaugural National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) to some 276 colleges and universities in the U.S. Since then, the NSSE project has grown substantially, not only in the number of participating institutions (which is almost double) but also in geographical reach. Seven Ontario universities participated in the survey in 2004; all 18 universities, as well as the Ontario College of Art & Design, will take part in the 2006 survey.

The purpose of NSSE is to collect information directly from undergraduates about the quality of their college or university experience, measured by their participation in the types of activities that lead to effective learning and personal growth. Measures of student engagement range from the level of classroom participation and interaction with faculty to involvement in enriching extracurricular activities. Participating institutions receive important feedback, which they can use to refine their policies and practices to become more educationally effective.

In spring 2005, COU set up the NSSE Steering Committee, chaired by Jamie Mackay, COU's Vice-President, Policy and Analysis, to oversee the Ontario NSSE consortium to prepare for the full participation of Ontario universities in the survey. It is hoped that Ontario universities will participate in NSSE every two or three years to help support their common focus, shared with government, on improving quality and accountability.

David Atkinson takes office as President of Carleton University

On August 1, 2005, David Atkinson took office as President and Vice-Chancellor of Carleton University.

Dr. Atkinson's professional academic career began at the University of Lethbridge where, from 1976 to 1991, he assumed increasingly senior administrative roles, including Chair of the Department of Religious Studies, Associate Dean of Arts and Science, Dean of Student Affairs and Associate Vice-President (Academic). During this period, he was also Visiting Professor of Canadian Studies at Hokkaigakuen University in Sapporo, Japan. In 1991, he accepted the position of Dean of Arts and Science at the University of Saskatchewan, and in 1997, he was appointed the President of Brock University, a position he held until his arrival at Carleton.

He is widely published, having written four books and more than 80 essays and reviews in areas as diverse as Renaissance and Reformation literature, comparative cultural thought, world religions and critical hermeneutics (the study of the principles of interpretation). He is also actively involved in various community groups.

Born in England, Dr. Atkinson immigrated with his family to Canada in the 1950s. He attended Indiana University on an athletic scholarship, where he was an NCAA All-American in Cross Country. He completed his bachelor of arts and, subsequently, his master's and doctoral degrees in English at the University of Calgary.

He succeeds Dr. Richard Van Loon.

Ontario university libraries win innovation award for Ontario Scholars Portal

The Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL) was honoured with the 2005 Innovation Achievement Award by the Canadian Association of College and University Librarians (CACUL) for its exceptional achievement in the development of the Ontario Scholars Portal. The award was presented at the 59th annual Canadian Library Association Meeting, held in Calgary on June 16, 2005.

"The Ontario Scholars Portal is a truly successful consortial achievement. The brainchild of OCUL, this project serves as a model for provincial, federal and institutional co-operation. The portal is an information infrastructure to support digital content which delivers support for research, teaching and learning at universities across Ontario," said Su Cleyle, President of CACUL.

With funding support from both the federal and provincial governments, in particular the Ontario Innovation Trust, the portal currently provides access to the full text content of over 7,000 electronic journals, as well as key support tools such as the SFX Link Resolver and RefWorks Citation Manager.

Leslie Weir, Chief Librarian at the University of Ottawa, and Faye Abrams, Project Officer at the University of Waterloo, accepted the award on behalf of OCUL. The $1,500 gift that accompanies the award, sponsored by the SIRSI Corporation, will be used to create a Scholars Portal internship.

OCUL is a consortium of the province's 20 university libraries. Member libraries collaborate to enhance information services through resource sharing, collective purchasing, document delivery and many other similar activities.

Sheldon Levy becomes President of Ryerson University

On August 1, 2005, Sheldon Levy became the President and Vice-Chancellor of Ryerson University.

Mr. Levy began his career at York University in 1973 as a lecturer in mathematics and computer science. From 1974 to 1996, he assumed progressively responsible positions at the university: Assistant to the Dean, Faculty of Arts; Program Cost Analyst for the Vice-President, Finance and Administration; Assistant Vice-President and subsequently Associate Vice-President, Management Information and Planning; and Vice-President, Institutional Affairs.

As President of Sheridan College from 1997 to 2000, he began the college's transition to an applied degree-granting institution. He subsequently served as Vice-President, Government and Institutional Relations at the University of Toronto and, prior to his Ryerson appointment, as Vice-President, Finance and Strategy, at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology.

He chairs the Education Marketing Advisory Board of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. He is also a board member of the Innovation Institute of Ontario as well Sheridan College's Elder Research Centre.

Mr. Levy received his bachelor of science (honours) in 1972, his master of arts (mathematics) in 1973 and his honorary doctor of laws in 1999 from York University.

He succeeds Dr. Claude Lajeunesse, who has assumed the presidency of Concordia University.

U of Ottawa wins Teaching with Technology Award for third year in a row

The COU Partnerships Division has announced that a team from the University of Ottawa is the winner of the 2005 Award for Excellence in Teaching with Technology – the third consecutive year that Ottawa faculty have netted this award. The awards program, which was established four years ago, recognizes faculty who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in using technology to enhance their teaching.

The 2005 award winner in the university category – a program specifically developed for undergraduate or graduate university students – is a team from the University of Ottawa's Centre for e-Learning (Centre du cyber-@ppentissage de l'Université d'Ottawa et le Programme de partenariat périnatal de l'est du sub-est de l'Ontario). The program was *Nursing Care for the At-Risk Newborn* or *Soins infirmiers du nouveau-né à risqué.*

Rémi Rousseau, Project Leader and Pedagogical Designer, led the University of Ottawa's winning team: Marc Bélanger, Georges Daoust, Sandra Dunn, Nicolas Hesler, Mireille Leblanc, Julie Lefebvre, Richard Pinet, André Séguin and Vicky Ward. The team will receive the award, which is valued at $5,000, at a reception that will be held in Ottawa on November 18, 2005. CGI Group, IBM and Sun Microsystems of Canada are sponsors of the awards program.

David Naylor assumes presidency of the University of Toronto

On October 1, 2005, David Naylor, former Dean of Medicine and Vice-Provost, Relations with Health Care Institutions, at the University of Toronto, assumed the presidency of U of T.

A former senior scientist with the Medical Research Council of Canada (MRC), Dr. Naylor joined U of T's Faculty of Medicine in 1987. From 1990 to 1996, he led a new research program in clinical epidemiology at Toronto's Sunnybrook Health Science Centre. From 1991 to 1998, he was inaugural Chief Executive Officer of the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences, a non-profit corporation that supports Canada's largest multi-disciplinary group of academics and trainees in health care research.

Dr. Naylor was one of the founders of Ontario's Cardiac Care Network. He has also served on MRC's Task Force on Health Research in various senior capacities. In 2003, he chaired the National Advisory Committee on SARS and Public Health, whose report resulted in the establishment of the Public Health Agency of Canada and Canada's first Chief Public Health Officer. Currently, he is a board member of five major teaching hospitals in Toronto.

He has co-authored some 300 publications, and his scholarly work spans social history, public policy, epidemiology and biostatistics, and health economics, as well as clinical and health services research in most fields of medicine. His work has been acknowledged nationally and internationally, and as a result he has been the recipient of numerous awards.

Dr. Naylor earned his MD with honours from U of T in 1978 with scholarships in medicine, surgery and pediatrics; was made a Rhodes Scholar in 1979; and earned his doctorate in 1983. He trained in general internal medicine at the University of Western Ontario, followed by a year in Toronto as an MRC fellow in clinical epidemiology.

He succeeds the Honourable Frank Iacobucci, who served as Interim President for one year.

Fourth edition of *Success Stories* published, posted and fully searchable

This past summer, the Ontario Council on University Research published its fourth edition of university research success stories (published annually since 2002 under the title *A Sampling of Success Stories*). The latest edition offers 114 profiles of research, discovery and innovation, reflecting the combined efforts of faculty, staff, and graduate and undergraduate students across Ontario's university sector. Once again, the rich variety of stories illustrates the important contribution that university research makes to the health, economic potential and quality of life of all Ontarians.

In a new development, individual stories from the last three editions are now a permanent, rotating feature on COU's home page (www.cou.on.ca), where a new research success story, randomly chosen from each university, is showcased daily. This list of stories is fully searchable by key words, university and/or discipline. Funding from the federal and provincial governments, various research-granting agencies, foundations and private-sector partners continues to position Ontario's 18 publicly assisted universities as leaders in research and discovery.

Sara Diamond appointed President of Ontario College of Art & Design

On July 1, 2005, Sara Diamond took office as President of the Ontario College of Art & Design (OCAD).

Ms. Diamond came to OCAD from the Banff Centre, which she joined in 1992 as Artistic Director of Media and Visual Art. From 2003 to 2005, she served as Director of Research for the Banff Centre. She created the Banff New Media Institute in 1995 and led this research and development centre for 10 years.

Ms. Diamond has taught at the Emily Carr Institute of Art & Design and the California Institute for the Arts. She remains Adjunct Professor at the University of California in Los Angeles. She is a practising artist and designer, working in video installation, artist's television and, most recently, conversation visualization software, artificial intelligence and performance.

She has received national and international awards for her art and design work, some of which resides in collections such as the National Gallery of Canada and the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Ms. Diamond also contributes to journals and books, lectures on media history and practice, and curates video and new media exhibitions in Canada and around the world.

Ms. Diamond earned a bachelor of arts (honours) in communications and a bachelor of arts (honours) in history from Simon Fraser University, and is currently completing her doctorate at the University of the Arts in London.

She succeeds Ron Shuebrook, who has begun a one-year sabbatical to pursue his art full-time.

COU establishes Quality and Productivity Task Force

COU has established the Quality and Productivity Task Force to help identify and introduce initiatives that will improve the quality and productivity at Ontario universities. It will also measure and track the progress of universities in these areas, and communicate their efforts and successes.

Chaired by Vivek Goel, Vice-President, Academic and Provost, University of Toronto, the Task Force comprises a broad spectrum of senior representatives from all of Ontario's universities. It will focus on teaching, knowledge advancement and learning; support services for these activities including academic support, technology-assisted learning and teaching innovations; and administrative efficiencies.

An interim report on the findings of the Task Force is expected by early in the new year, with a final report slated for spring 2006.

Council welcomes five new Academic Colleagues

In addition to five new Executive Heads, Council has welcomed five new Academic Colleagues:

- Dr. Jean Guy Godin, Dean, Faculty of Science, Carleton University;
- Dr. Chris Sarlo, Director, School of Business and Economics, Nipissing University;
- Dr. Susan Cole, Canada Research Chair in Cancer Biology, Queen's University;
- Dr. John Doerksen, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs and Admissions, Faculty of Music, University of Western Ontario; and
- Dr. Lynne Phillips, Head, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Windsor.

Terrance Boak appointed Acting President of Brock University

On August 1, 2005, Terrance Boak took office as Acting President and Vice-Chancellor of Brock University, a position he will hold for a period of up to one year or until a successor is found for David Atkinson, who has assumed the presidency of Carleton University.

Dr. Boak began his career in 1973 as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Educational Psychology at Memorial University in Newfoundland. He was later promoted to Associate Professor, Director of Student Services in the Faculty of Education, Associate Dean and Professor. In 1989, Dr. Boak assumed the role of Dean of the Faculty of Education at Brock, serving two terms before his 1998 appointment as Vice-President, Academic and Provost.

Outside of the university, Dr. Boak chaired the Ontario Association of Deans of Education (1991-93) and served as a board member of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (1990-93).

He received his bachelor of science (1966), bachelor of education (1969) and master of education (1971) from the University of Manitoba. In 1974, he earned his doctorate at the University of Calgary with a specialization in counselling psychology/counsellor education, and later completed a postdoctoral study in school psychology at the University of Alberta.

OUAC's Admission Information Services: a "hit" with students

The Admission Information Service, formerly the Referral Service, continues to be a valuable resource for secondary school students seeking entry to an Ontario university. The service, set up by the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC) in 1987, provides up-to-date information about Ontario universities that still have spaces available in first-year programs in mid-June, after offers of admission have been mailed. Applicants who have not received an admission offer or who wish to amend their application may use this information to apply to programs that are still available.

All universities regularly update their own admission information, which is centralized and made available on OUAC's web site (www.ouac.on.ca). Applicants and guidance counsellors can access this information, by phone or web, at any time while the service is in operation (from mid-June to late August). Each year has seen a steady rise in the number of students who use this service. With web hits increasing by over 300% to 29,414 hits since 2001, statistics clearly show that more students are going directly to the web to access current admission information.

eINFO to provide online searchable resource for students

INFO magazine, the comprehensive guide to Ontario universities for secondary school students and guidance counsellors, has a web counterpart, called *eINFO*, which OUAC will launch this fall. The first step in a three-year plan, this new web site (www.electronicinfo.ca) will provide the Degree Locator and Programs of Study charts – both vital to students' higher education planning – in an online searchable format.

By fall 2006, more searchable charts and tables will be added, and by fall 2007, OUAC expects the *eINFO* web site will be a fully searchable alternative to *INFO* magazine, incorporating many useful tools for university-bound students. During this process, the *eINFO* web site will also continue to feature a PDF version of the magazine that can be downloaded.

Membership changes and new initiatives underway at CUCC

The College-University Consortium Council (CUCC) has two new co-chairs: Mr. Sheldon Levy, President of Ryerson University, who was appointed by COU, and Dr. Robert Gordon, President of Humber Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning, who was appointed by the Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology of Ontario (ACAATO). Representatives from the staff of both COU and ACAATO have also been added as *ex officio* members of the Council: Jamie Mackay, COU's Vice-President of Policy and Analysis, and Bill Summers, Senior Director, ACAATO. Council members are Dr. Fred A. Hall, Associate Vice-President, Academic, McMaster University; Cindy Hazell, Vice-President, Academic, Seneca College; Janet Mason, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities; Dr. Robert Rosehart, President, Wilfrid Laurier University; and Barbara Taylor, President, Canadore College.

CUCC also has a new research plan that reflects its key public policy objectives: ensuring viable pathways for movement between the college and university sectors; avoiding duplication costs; and ensuring access to under-represented groups. In September 2005, ACAATO published *Student Mobility Within Ontario's Postsecondary Sector*, which examines transferability in Ontario's postsecondary sector; the report can now be found on CUCC's web site (http://cucc.cou.on.ca/). The coming year will see additional research in this area by CUCC members.

In addition to its research plan, CUCC has launched a promotional campaign to increase awareness of the Ontario College-University Transfer Guide (www.ocutg.ca) among secondary school students and counsellors. CUCC's online guide is an interactive database of Ontario's college-university transfer agreements that provides useful information for university students seeking college educational opportunities and vice versa. As part of the campaign, in October CUCC hosted a booth promoting the online guide at the Ontario College Information Fair, and in November it will distribute marketing posters, pamphlets and bookmarks to all secondary schools in the province. Additionally in November, CUCC will lead a workshop at the Ontario School Counsellors' Association annual conference to familiarize participating counsellors with the guide so they, in turn, can help their students fully explore their postsecondary options.

CUCC was established by the Ontario government to facilitate, promote and co-ordinate joint education and training ventures by the province's colleges and universities. For more information, contact Interim Director Liz MacLennan by phone (416-979-2165 ext. 219) or by e-mail (lmaclennan@cou.on.ca).

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